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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,625	04/20/2005	Nava Zisapel	2007-120	9296
6449 7590 03/05/2009 ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C. 1425 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER PHILLIPS JR, WELDON P				
ART UNIT 4121		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 03/05/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTO-PAT-Email@rfem.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,625

Applicant(s)

ZISAPEL, NAVA

Examiner

WELDON PHILLIPS JR.

Art Unit

4121

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 29-47 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application for patent entered the national stage in the United States of America on April 20, 2005 under 35 USC 371 from PCT/IL2003/00240, filed March 20, 2003, claiming priority from Israel Application No. 149377, filed April 8, 2002.

Claims 29-47, as amended, are now pending.

Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a "single general inventive concept" as required under PCT Rule 13.1 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(a). In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I: Claims 29-37, drawn to methods of potentiating the hypnotic effect of at least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound through combination treatment with melatonin;

Group II: Claims 38-45, drawn to a composition comprising as active ingredients at least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound and melatonin;

Group III: Claim 46, drawn to a method of decreasing the dose of a non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound through combination treatment with melatonin; and

Group IV: Claim 47, drawn to a method of lessening the risk of the development of tolerance or dependence on a non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound through combination treatment with melatonin.

2. As set forth in PCT Rule 13.1, the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention"). As stated in Rule 13.2, where a group of inventions is claimed in an international application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. Rule 13.2 defines special technical features as "those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. A lack of unity of invention determination begins with a consideration of the claims in light of the description and drawings. Lack of unity of invention may be directly evident "a priori," or before considering any prior art when no special technical feature is common to each of the independent claims. Alternatively, lack of unity of invention may only become evident "a posteriori," or after considering the claims in relation to the prior art.

3. In the instant application, the claimed inventions listed as Groups I through IV are not so linked as to form a "single general inventive concept" under PCT Rule 13.1 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(a), because they lack the same or corresponding special

technical features. In the instant application, the technical feature shared by the Groups is the combination of non-barbiturate/non-benzodiazepine hypnotics and melatonin, which does not present a contribution over the prior art. For instance, Suhner discloses the combination of the non-barbiturate/non-benzodiazepine hypnotic, zolpidem, and melatonin (Suhner et al., Table 1, cited on applicant's IDS dated December 14, 2006). As such, Groups I through IV do not share a special technical feature, the claims are not so linked within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 as to form a single inventive concept over the prior art, and unity between Groups I through IV is broken. Because unity of invention is lacking, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

4. **Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of an invention to be examined** even though the requirement may be traversed under 37 CFR § 1.143 **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention**, including any claims subsequently added.

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR § 1.144. If claims are

added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the claimed inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the claimed inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the claimed inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other claimed inventions.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(i).

6. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Elections of Species

7. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

If Group I is elected, EACH of the following species elections is required:

- a) At least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine compound (e.g., zolpidem, etc.), reading on claims 29-31, 33, 34 and 37;

If Group II is elected, EACH of the following species elections is required:

- a) At least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine compound (e.g., zolpidem, etc.), reading on claims 38, 39, 41, 42 and 45;

If Group III is elected, EACH of the following species elections is required:

- a) A single non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine compound (e.g., zolpidem, etc.), reading on claim 46.

If Group IV is elected, EACH of the following species elections is required:

- a) A single non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine compound (e.g., zolpidem, etc.), reading on claim 47.

8. Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Specifically, **as to claims 29-37 of Group I**, applicant is required to elect at least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine compound. **As to claims 38-45 of Group II**, applicant is required to elect at least one non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine compound. **As to claim 46 of Group III**, applicant is required to elect at least one non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine compound. **As to claims 47 of Group IV**, applicant

is required to elect at least one non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine compound.

Upon Applicant's election of species, the result must provide a single chemical species. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner: claims 29-37 as to Group I, claims 38-45 as to Group II, claims 46 as to Group III and claims 47 as to Group II. The following claim(s) are generic: claims 29-33 as to Group I, claims 38-41 as to Group II, claims 45 as to Group III and claims 46 as to Group IV.

9. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

- a) Each chemical species is a distinct chemical with distinct moieties and properties such that each chemical species is of a dissimilar nature.

There is an examination and search burden for these patentably distinct species due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

10. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed under 37 CFR § 1.143 **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

An election of species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR § 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WELDON PHILLIPS JR. whose telephone number is (571)-270-7673. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday & every other Friday between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Nolan can be reached on 571-272-0847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/WP/
Examiner, Art Unit 4121

/Patrick J. Nolan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4121